

## 04.5 Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach, then the setting manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water and keeping them away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using a medical thermometer.
- If a child's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then Calpol may be given after gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- In an emergency, an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea, or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play and self-serve snacks, will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies the trustees if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3–4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad, such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS 111 and informs parents.

### HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV viruses, like other viruses such as Hepatitis (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

- Single-use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/slucing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

### **Nits and head lice**

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their children and all the family, using current recommended treatment methods if they are found.

### **Further guidance**

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](#) (Alliance Publication)

[Medication Administration Record](#) (Alliance Publication)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)  
[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)